

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 43, 44, 52, and 55 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 35 and 51 as follows:

35. (Amended) An analytical device for the detection or determination of a component in a fluid wherein said component is an analyte with bioaffinity binding properties, comprising a layer of a plurality of substantially planar zones adjacent one another and in absorbent contact with one another, said layer including:

a mobile phase application zone (MPAZ), an intermediate zone (IZ), and an adsorption zone (AZ), liquid being capable of moving by adsorption from said MPAZ through said IZ to said AZ, and wherein said IZ comprises a solid phase zone (SPZ) having at least one unlabelled reactant, capable of interactions of biological affinity with an analyte;

at least one unattached, labeled reactant (conjugate) capable of interactions of biological affinity with said analyte disposed in an area between the MPAZ and the SPZ; and

an analyte application zone disposed at said MPAZ or in between said MPAZ and said AZ, and

wherein all reactants necessary for the detection or determination are present in a dehydrated form in the device, and

wherein said MPAZ has dimensions to contain sufficient fluid to permit the fluid to migrate to the AZ, and

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wherein said layer of substantially planar zones contains at least two
sheet-like strips made from different materials, and
wherein after application of said analyte, said analyte is reacted with said
reactants in said layer and is detected in said layer.

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51. (Amended) An analytical device for the detection of beta-hCG in a fluid
sample by means of a sandwich immunoassay comprising a layer of a plurality of
substantially planar zones adjacent one another and in absorbent contact with one
another, said layer including:
a mobile phase application zone (MPAZ), an intermediate zone (IZ) and
an adsorption zone (AZ), liquid being capable of moving by adsorption from said MPAZ
through said IZ to said AZ, and wherein said IZ further comprises a solid phase zone
(SPZ) having at least one unlabelled antibody, capable of an immunological interaction
with beta-hCG;

at least one unattached labeled antibody (conjugate) capable of an
immunological interaction with beta-hCG, disposed in an area between the MPAZ and
the SPZ; and

an analyte application zone disposed at said MPAZ,
wherein the MPAZ has dimensions to contain sufficient fluid to permit the
fluid to migrate to the end of the AZ, and

wherein said layer of substantially planar zones contains at least two
sheet-like strips made from different materials, and

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wherein after application of said fluid sample, the presence of beta-hCG is
detected visually in the SPZ.

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